DC
5 of 12
LIMITED SERIES
DARK KNIGHTS OF STEEL
TAYLOR
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PRIANTO
AGES 13+
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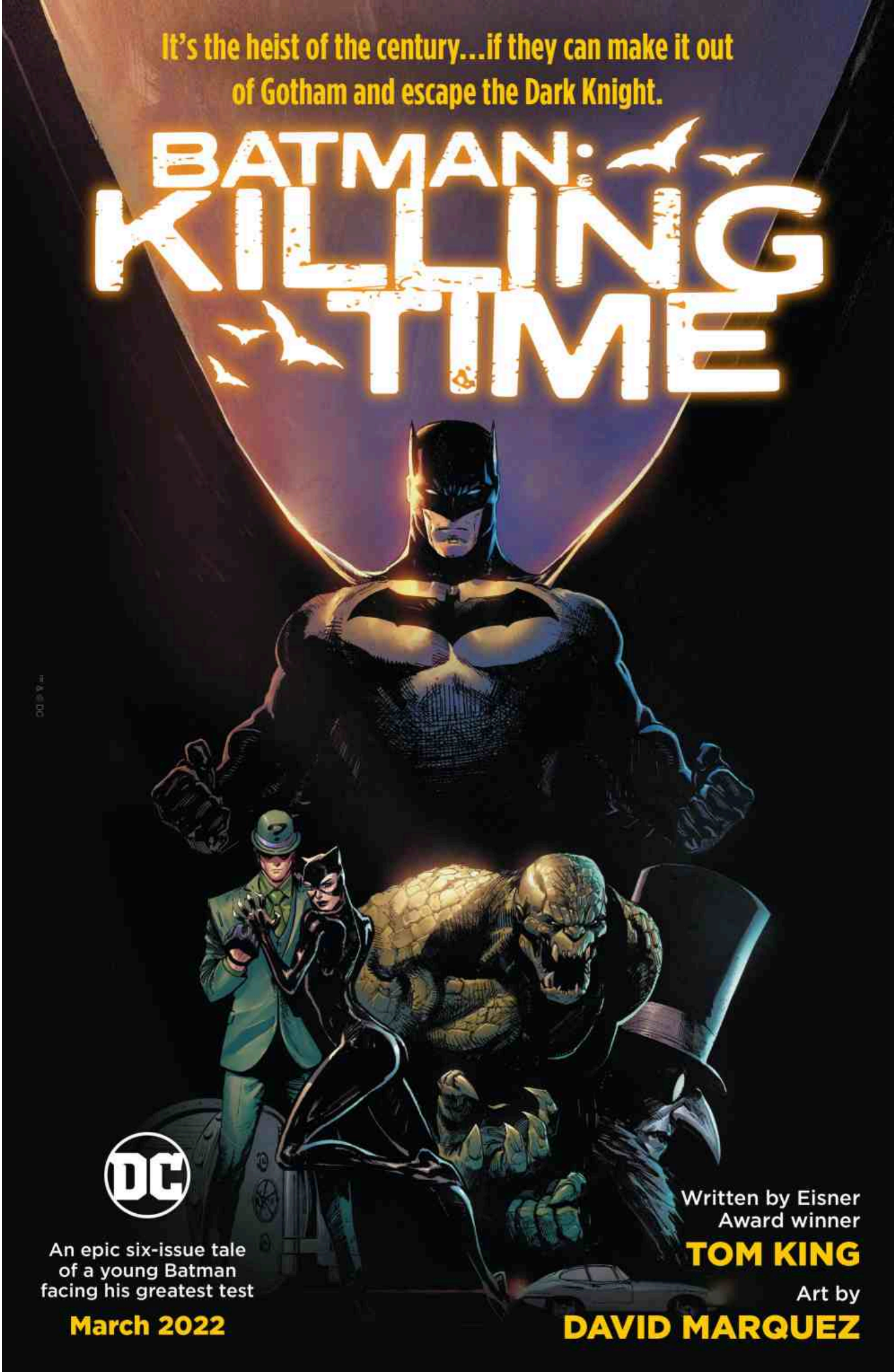

It's the heist of the century...if they can make it out of Gotham and escape the Dark Knight.
BATMAN: KILLING TIME
DC
An epic six-issue tale of a young Batman facing his greatest test
March 2022
Written by Eisner Award winner
TOM KING
Art by
DAVID MARQUEZ

The Kingdom of El.

LOST SOULS

WRITTEN BY Tom Taylor ART BY Yasmine Putri
COLOR BY Arif Prianto LETTERS BY Wes Abbott COVER BY Dan Mora
VARIANT COVERS BY Joshua Middleton & Ejikure EDITED BY Ben Abernathy

SUPERMAN CREATED BY Jerry Siegel AND Joe Shuster.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

WHEN DID YOU HEAR?
TWO DAYS AGO.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T COME STRAIGHT HOME. I...I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR THE GREEN MAN.
YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE DONE THAT ALONE.
I COULDN'T JUST...I HAD TO DO SOMETHING.
OUR FATHER DESERVES JUSTICE.
JUSTICE WILL BE DONE, MY SISTER, I PROMISE.

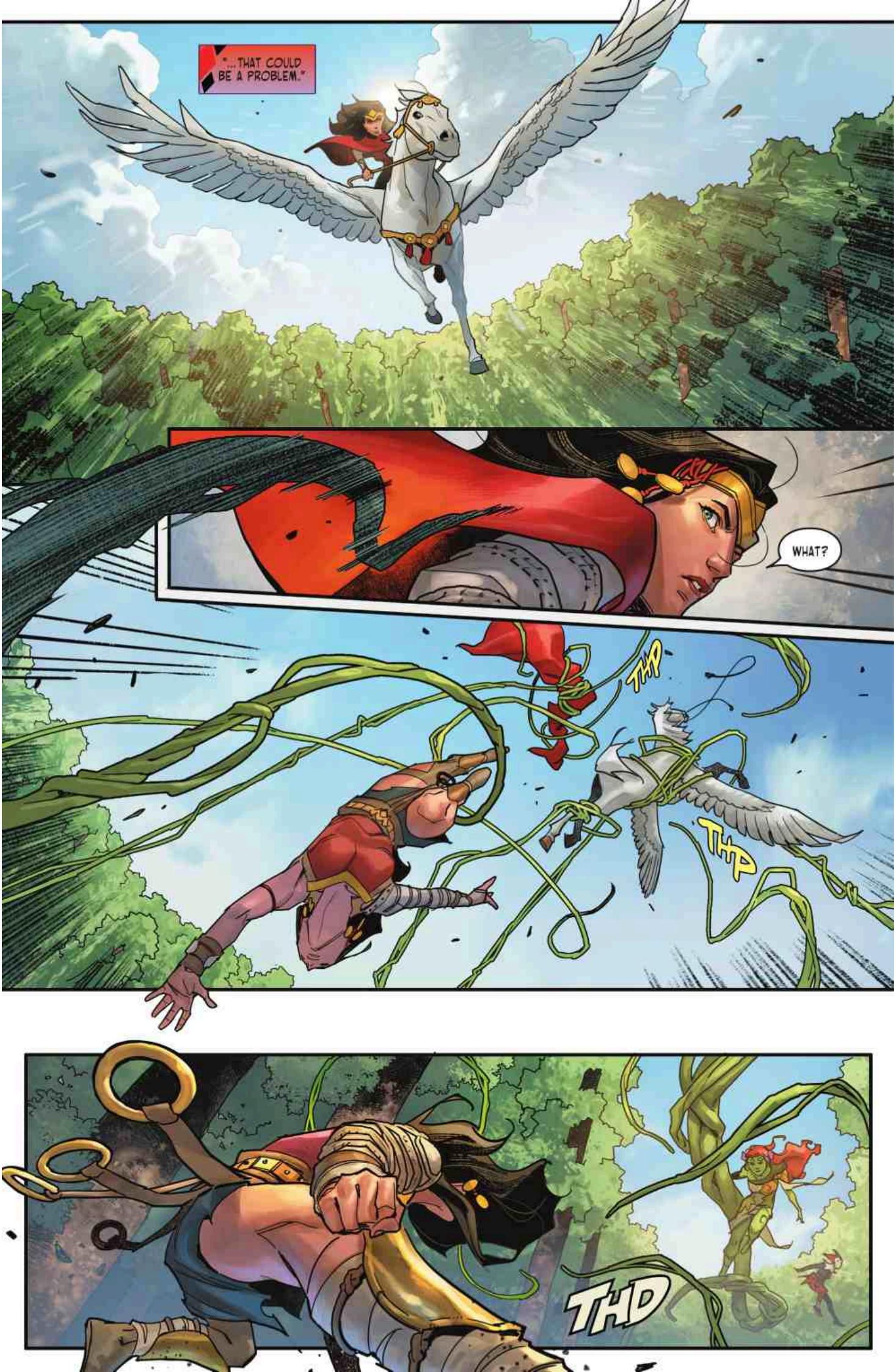
Hobb Forest.
HELLO?
HELL--
AAAAGHHH!
DON'T DO ANYTHING RASH. I WAS SENT BY THE QUEEN.

I RECOGNIZE NO QUEEN.
I KNOW. WHICH IS WHY I'M THE ONE TALKING TO YOU.
DOES THE BATMAN STILL WANT TO PUT ME IN A CELL?
I MEAN... PROBABLY. IT'S WHAT HE DOES.
HE'S SCARED.
NOT FOR HIMSELF.
IT AMOUNTS TO THE SAME THING.

THE KING DIED. HE WAS ATTACKED FROM YOUR FOREST. GENERAL WALLER WANTS IT BURNED.
SHE CAN TRY.
OR YOU CAN AGREE TO HELP US.
WITH WHAT?
INSTEAD OF A THREAT, THIS FOREST COULD BE A LINE OF DEFENSE. YOU COULD BE A LINE OF DEFENSE.
I WON'T HELP THE ELS. I DON'T TRUST THEM.
BUT I WILL ALWAYS HELP YOU, QUINN.
NO DANGER WILL BE ALLOWED THROUGH THE FOREST.
THANK YOU, MY LADY.
IN RETURN, YOU WILL LIVE HERE, WITH ME.
THIS AGAIN?
THIS ALWAYS.

MY LADY, I'M ALWAYS HAPPY TO VISIT.
BUT YOU HAVE YOUR WORLD TO PROTECT, AND I HAVE MINE.
RESPECT THAT.
AND BURY ANY WOULD-BE INVADERS FOR YOU.
EXACTLY. IS THAT SO MUCH TO ASK?
I WOULD BURY AN ARMY FOR YOU.
IMPRESSIVE.
NOT MANY PEOPLE CAN FIND THAT PERFECT BALANCE OF ROMANTIC AND HORRIFYING.

HMM.
WHAT IS IT?
THE TREES FEEL SOMEONE FLYING OVER THEM ON THE WIND.
WOULD YOU LIKE THEM TAKEN CARE OF?
CAN I HAVE A LOOK?
HOLD ON.
WELL?
YES...

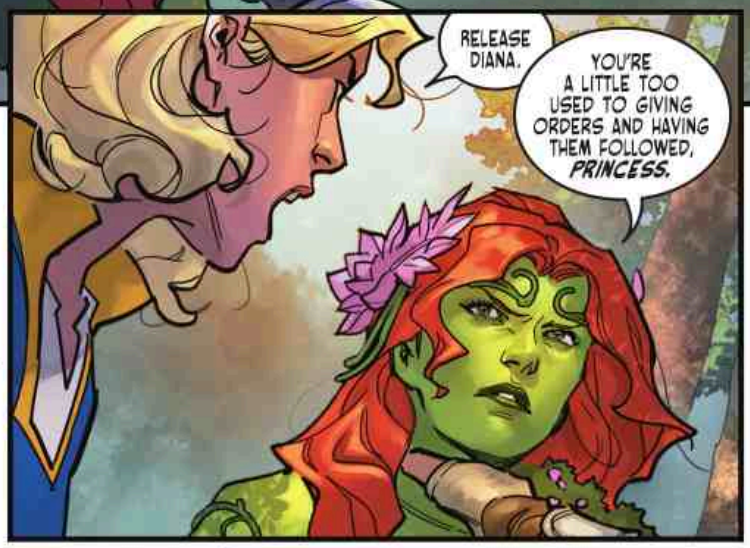

"...THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM."
WHAT?
THP
THP
THD

STAND ASIDE, FOREST WITCH.
NO.
CRK
I SAID...
...STAND ASIDE!
KRAK

YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO HARM THIS FOREST ANY FURTHER.
AND YOU WILL NOT PASS THROUGH IT, INVADER.
THP
THP
YOU THINK YOU CAN HOLD ME?
I AM DIANA.
SNP
DAUGHTER OF AMAZONIA.

YOU CANNOT HOLD ME.
I DO NOT WANT VIOLENCE, BUT I CAN CRUSH YOUR FACE IF THIS ATTACK CONTINUES.
AND I CAN COMMAND FUNGUS TO ROT IN YOUR BRAIN. THORNS TO SEED IN YOUR EYEBALLS.
YES. YOU'RE BOTH VERY FORMIDABLE AND INTIMIDATING. LET'S TAKE IT DOWN A NOTCH.
WHAT DOES THE PRINCESS OF AMAZONIA WANT HERE?
ZALA.
DO YOU MEAN HER HARM?
NO. I AM HERE BECAUSE I HAVE MORE FAITH IN HER THAN MY MOTHER DOES.
SHE HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF SOMETHING THAT WOULD TEAR OUR KINGDOMS APART.

AND *WHAT* HAVE I BEEN ACCUSED OF?


RELEASE DIANA.
YOU'RE A LITTLE TOO USED TO GIVING ORDERS AND HAVING THEM FOLLOWED, *PRINCESS.*

ZALA! KAL-EL! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
WE HAVE VERY GOOD HEARING AND YOU WERE KNOCKING DOWN TREES.
OH, YEAH.

LET HER GO, IVY. PLEASE.
AND MY *PEGASUS.*

FINE.

ZALA. CAN WE SPEAK...?

"...SOMEWHERE PRIVATE?"
KING PIERCE SAYS YOU KILLED HIS SON.
WHAT?
SO...YOU DIDN'T?
IF I'D MURDERED A CHILD, I THINK I'D REMEMBER.
WHY WOULD HE CLAIM SUCH A THING?
TO GARNER SYMPATHY. TO WIN OVER ALLIES.
MY MOTHER IS PREPARED TO STAND WITH HIM AGAINST YOUR FAMILY.
HIPPOLYTA BELIEVES IN THE PROPHECY?
SHE BELIEVES THE KINGDOM OF STORMS IS OUR ALLY. SHE CANNOT TURN HER BACK ON THEM WHEN THE FIGHTING BEGINS.
IF A WAR IS COMING, LET'S MAKE SURE WE'RE ON THE SAME SIDE OF IT.
I MEAN IT. WE CAN'T LET OUR FAMILIES SPLIT US APART.
THE WORLD NEEDS US TOGETHER.

MASTER GRAYSON.
ALFRED. BRUCE. DID YOU FIND THE FALLEN STAR?
WE FOUND... SOMETHING.
HAVE YOU SEEN KAL-EL?
STEPH REPORTED SEEING THE PRINCE ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY. NEAR THE FOREST.
IT CAN WAIT TILL MORNING.
OF COURSE IT CAN. BUT I MAY NOT HAVE THE NERVE IF I WAIT ANY LONGER.
DO NOT BE AFRAID, BRUCE.
HE LOVES YOU.
WE ALL DO.

YOU BELIEVE THE FALLEN STAR CAME FROM KRYPTON?
AND WHOEVER TOOK THE REST OF IT, THEY TORE THE METAL MEN APART.
ALFRED WAS ABLE TO TAKE SOME OF LEAD'S ARMOR AND ENCASE THE SHARD TO STOP ITS EFFECT.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IF IT'S FROM KRYPTON, WHY WAS IT AFFECTING YOU?
I'M SORRY, KAL. I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU AS SOON AS I LEARNED.
JOR-EL TOLD ME... MOMENTS BEFORE HE DIED.
TOLD YOU WHAT?
I DIDN'T WANT TO SAY ANYTHING. I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK LESS...
...OF OUR FATHER.
I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO FEEL SHAME OR FOR YOU TO...

HRRK!
KAL...?

HNNG!
THIS IS OUR WORLD NOW.
OURS TO RULE.
THERE CAN BE NO CHALLENGERS.

KOOOOM

I'M TELLING YOU, SOMETHING FELL.
RIGHT OVER HERE.
BY THE GODS.
WHAT IS IT?
IT'S THE BATMAN.

HE'S STILL BREATHING.
BARELY.
HE NEEDS OUR AID.
YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S DONE. THE PAIN HE'S CAUSED.
I DO. ARE YOU SUGGESTING WE DON'T HELP?
I... OF COURSE NOT.
SHRRP
THE WOUND DOESN'T LOOK TO BE DEEP, BUT I THINK THIS THING IS POISONING HIM.
WELL, PULL IT OUT.

HRAAARGHH!

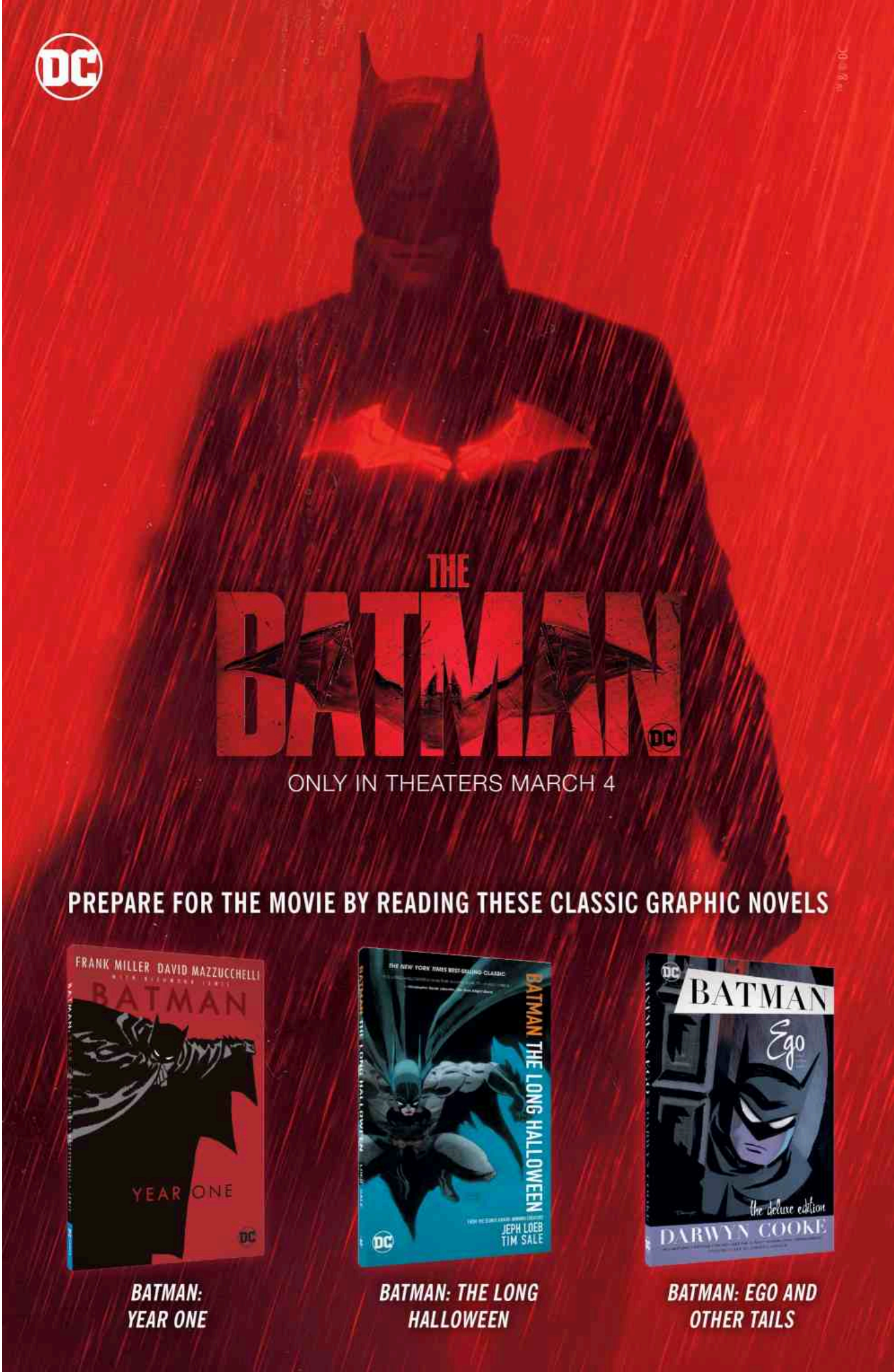
HE'S NOT WHAT HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE.
NO.
LET'S GET HIM TO THE PALACE.

NO!

NO PALACE...

PUT HIM ON THE CART.
AND THEN WHAT? YOU WANT TO TAKE HIM *HOME*?
YES, JONATHAN. IT'S WHAT WE DO WITH LOST SOULS.

YOUR COMPASSION WILL BE THE DEATH OF US ONE DAY, MARTHA KENT.
next:
The Kents



PREPARE FOR THE MOVIE BY READING THESE CLASSIC GRAPHIC NOVELS

BATMAN: YEAR ONE

BATMAN: THE LONG HALLOWEEN

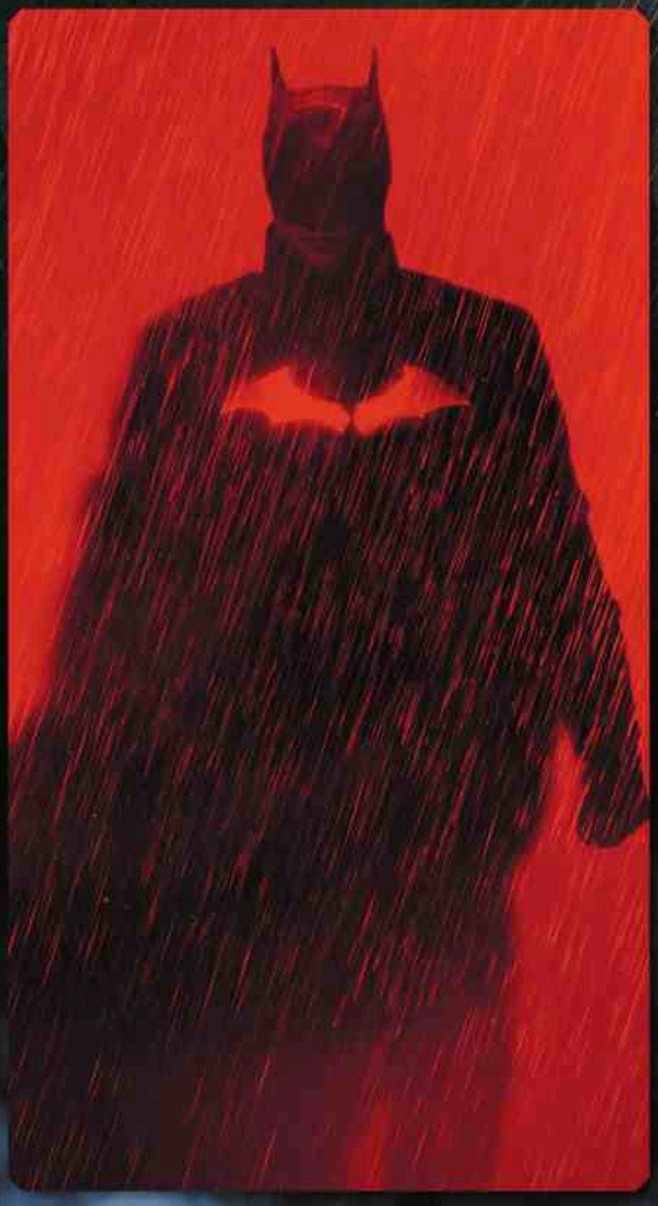
BATMAN: EGO AND OTHER TAILS

DC NATION INTERVIEW

MATT REEVES

THE DIRECTOR OF

THE BATMAN



WHAT WAS YOUR APPROACH WHEN STARTING THE FILM?

The great thing about Batman: it's such a psychological story. And so this whole idea of the emotional pursuit of what he's after and what he's willing to do to get there, and how he turns into his shadow self—that sort of complexity, I think, is really unique to Batman. At the end of the day, what I wanted was a Batman who was exceedingly human. I wanted you to see this guy who does these amazing things, but in a way, his scars are his biggest strength. What happened to him made him perfectly suited to be the person who will push himself to any length, because it's the only way he can make meaning out of his life.

WHAT COMICS DID YOU LOOK TO AS INSPIRATION FOR THE FILM?

While we're not doing *The Long Halloween*, the idea that we're doing a serial killer story that is also a story about Batman where we go on a personal journey with him, that was very inspiring to me. That story and *Dark Victory* and *Hush* were really important in the beginning of all this. As was Darwyn Cooke's *Ego*, with its great psychological understanding of the character.

WHAT WAS YOUR TAKE ON BRUCE WAYNE?

We'd already seen Bruce as the ultra-rich playboy, but I wanted him to feel almost like a fallen American prince. I wanted him to be someone whose parents had been larger than life, philanthropic figures who everyone revered as Gotham royalty. And in the wake of their tragic deaths, instead of fostering the image of the storied Waynes, he completely withdrew and became what I saw as an almost rockstar-like recluse. I saw him kind of like Kurt Cobain.

CAN YOU TALK ABOUT THE VILLAINS?

I wanted to see a Batman film that was not an origin tale, but was about his early days. That meant a lot of the characters who are the rogues gallery characters would be in their origin phases. So we have a Selina Kyle who's not yet Catwoman, but you can see all of the pieces. And we have a Penguin who's not yet the kingpin, but you can see the seeds of that as well. In the comics, what's so interesting and fun is that many of those characters, ironically, are inspired by the presence of this masked vigilante. And they become their own alter egos of themselves in this kind of darker way. So there's a real dialogue between Batman and the rogues gallery.

THE BATMAN

IN THEATERS BEGINNING
MARCH 4!

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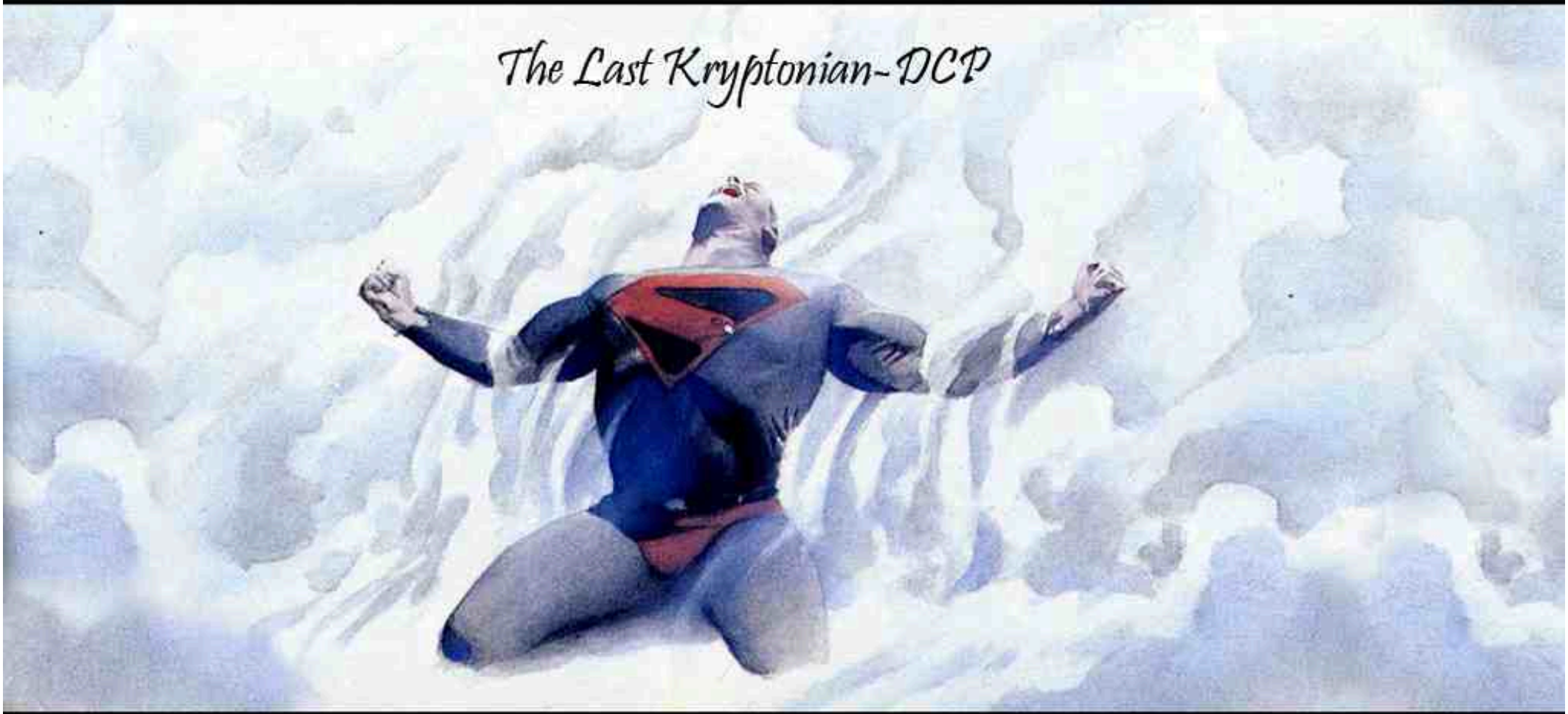
The Last Kryptonian-DCP